Programmes of SCs/STs Commission in Gujarat

810. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) details of welfare programmes performed by SCs/STs Commission during 1992-93 to 1994-95 in various districts of Gujarat State;

(b) whether the works of the SCs/STs Commissionm are reviewed periodically;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The National Commission for SCs and STs do not directly undertake/perform/implement welfare programmes for SCs/STs. However the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes being a Constitutional authority are required to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force. The Commission are also required to participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union or any State. This Constitutional mandate is carried out in the case of all States including Gujarat.

(b) to (d) The National Commission is required to submit reports to the president of India as per Article 338 of the Constitution. It has submitted First Report for 12-3-1992 to 31-3-93 to the President of India on 15th August, 1994. The recommendations appearing in the Report relate to Educational, Economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Service safeguards and Atrocitites on SC/ST. The Report shall be laid before each house of Parliament alongwith a Memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations.

Newsprint Import Scam

811. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has unearthed a scam in newsprint import worth crores of rupees as reported in Tribune dated the 21st June, 1996;

(b) if so, the *modus-operandi* of the scam;

(c) whether Government propose to impose restrictions on the import of newsprint to avoid its misuse; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) According to available information, CBI has called for certain details from the Registrar of Newspapers for India about relevant procedures and documents required for working out entitlement to import newsprint against entitlement certificates, issued by the RNI, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, New Delhi as per policy prevailing prior to 30th April, 1995 for importing newsprint.

(c) and (d) Import of newsprint is freely permitted under the current Export & Import Policy.

Incurring of Losses by Super Bazar

812. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the over-all losses of Super Bazar during each of the last four years; yearwise, branch-wise;

(b) which of the branches of Super Bazar are incurring losses and which are earning profits or are at the margin;